

Chris D'Agostino Testimony:

Good afternoon, Chairman Miller and members of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Chris D'Agostino, and I serve as the Pennsylvania Policy Principal for Advanced Energy United—a national trade association that educates and advocates for sound policies to support the full spectrum of clean energy and transmission businesses.

We're proud to represent an industry that supports over 4.1 million jobs nationwide, including more than 140,000 here in Pennsylvania. Our member companies manufacture and deploy technologies spanning advanced electricity generation, energy storage, grid modernization, energy efficiency, and next-generation transmission and distribution systems.

These solutions drive economic value for residents and businesses. They lower energy costs, create high-quality jobs, and improve grid reliability. For businesses, they offer both immediate and long-term financial benefits, through protection against energy price volatility, increased property values, and to help diversify and stabilize the grid.

Pennsylvania has a tremendous opportunity to lead in the clean energy economy and outpace other states. But realizing that potential requires smart, common-sense solutions. Governor Shapiro's Lightning Plan is a big step forward. It addresses two of the biggest barriers our member companies face: lengthy delays in bringing new technologies online and a lack of clear market signals that incentivize investment in modern, reliable energy solutions. With electricity rate hikes expected from the outcome of the last PJM auction, Pennsylvania must act now to do everything they can to diversify the grid and help mitigate these cost increases.

Advanced energy and transmission infrastructure is key to keeping these costs at bay, and the reality is, Pennsylvania trails much of the country when it comes to deploying these new technologies. Programs like PRESS and RESET can change that—positioning the Commonwealth to catch up and ultimately lead. By establishing a state-based siting board, Pennsylvania would join 38 other states—Democratic- and Republican-led alike—that have already adopted this common-sense approach. And by setting a goal of 35% clean electricity by 2035, we'd be keeping pace with where many of our neighboring states are heading.

Diversifying our grid with clean energy and modern transmission is essential to achieving lower costs—and Pennsylvania is behind much of the country in this regard. For instance, states like Texas, where 30% of electricity comes from renewables, compared to less than 5% in Pennsylvania, enjoy lower average electricity rates. Clean energy and affordability go hand in hand.

In the aggregate, we believe these technologies—paired with smart, common-sense policy—will deliver an energy system that is more **affordable, reliable, and secure** for Pennsylvanian residents and businesses. I'm happy to answer any questions.